

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Bureau of Parks and Lands
Moosehead Region Management Plan
Advisory Committee Meeting
 May 21, 2015 5:30 – 8:00 PM
 Greenville Town Office – Meeting Room

MEETING NOTES

The Advisory Committee Meeting was attended by nine AC members:

Bob Hamer, area resident	John Simko, Town of Greenville
Bob Guethlen, area resident	Bryan Wentzell, Appalachian Mountain Club
Erica Kaufman, Forest Society of Maine	Luke Muzzy, Plum Creek
Allen Phillips, area seasonal resident	Rep. Paul Stearns, District 119
Tim Obrey, ME Dept. of Inland Fish & Wildlife	

Additionally, 10 member of the public and the following BPL staff members were present: Peter Smith, Western Region Lands Manager; Kathy Eickenberg, Chief of Planning; Jim Vogel, Plan Coordinator; Rex Turner, Recreation Planner; Mark Albert, Forester; John Boydston, Moosehead Lake Seasonal Ranger. Doug Denico, Director of the Maine Forest Service also attended.

Welcome/Introduction and Purpose

Jim Vogel welcomed the attendees and Bureau staff introduced themselves, followed by AC members and the general public. A meeting agenda was provided (attachment 1). The meeting was guided by the list of Moosehead Region Issues, Needs and Opportunities developed during scoping and subsequent BPL staff discussions, and which was distributed to the AC in advance. Jim expressed that the purpose of the meeting was to gain a fuller understanding of the issues and opportunities to be addressed in the Plan, including guidance on developing an overall Vision for each of the major properties covered by the Plan. In addition, BPL wished to explore concerns of user groups and management challenges that may be associated with certain issues and opportunities.

A Little Moose Unit base map and current resource allocation map were handed out. Copies of the 2014 Central Penobscot Region Plan were passed around as an example of a recently completed BPL plan (with particular reference to the Vision statements) that the Moosehead Plan will resemble in general content and outline.

Plan Issues Discussion

- Bureau staff and the committee reviewed and discussed the issues related to the Little Moose and Days Academy Units and Kineo/Farm Island State Park lands, as reflected in the attached record (see attachment 2; the comments expressed at the meeting are inserted into the 5-14-15 issues list in italics).
- Time did not permit full discussion of Sugar Island, the Moosehead Lake east shore lands, or the smaller units that will be addressed by the Plan. However, AC member were encouraged to send any comments or thoughts they may have on those or other lands in writing after the meeting, or to call the Plan Coordinator.

Next Steps and Concluding Comments

- Jim Vogel described the next step in the Plan's development, to be completed over the next month or so, in which the Bureau preparing a Draft Plan; the primary task will be crafting a Vision for each unit and balancing protection of special resources, wildlife habitat, various types of recreation, timber management, and other uses of the public lands that are compatible with the overall vision.
- AC members were also reminded of the opportunity to provide additional thoughts or comments over the next two weeks on both overall Vision statements and specific issues, and that an email and mailing address to submit comments are provided on the bottom of the meeting agenda. The meeting was concluded with a thank you to all who attended.

Additional Post-Meeting Comments

- AC members Allen Phillips and Bob Guethlen, and local resident Jenny Ward, all of whom attended the meeting, as well as AC member Walter Opuszynski and long-time visitor Marcia Phillips submitted additional written comments in the two-week period following the meeting. See attachment 3 for those comments.

Attachment 1: Meeting Agenda

Attachment 2: Plan Issues List with meeting notes inserted

Attachment 3: Post-meeting comments



Moosehead Region Management Plan

Advisory Committee Meeting

May 21, 2015

5:30 to 8:00 pm

Greenville Town Hall

Agenda

- 5:30 Welcome and Introductions, Meeting's Objectives and Goals
- 5:35 Little Moose Public Lands – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential management recommendations [60 min.]
- 6:35 Days Academy Public Lands – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential management recommendations [25 min.]
- 7: 00 Break
- 7:10 Sugar Island and East Shore Public Lands – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential management recommendations [25 min.]
- 7:35 Farm Island and Kineo Undeveloped State Park Lands – Review of Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Discussion of potential Management Recommendations [20 min.]
- 7:55 Next Steps

Adjourn

You may send **written comments** to be considered in preparing the first Draft Plan **by June 5** to:

Jim Vogel
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
OR
Jim.Vogel@maine.gov

The webpage for the Moosehead Region Plan can be found at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/moosehead_region. This page will be updated with draft plans and announcements about upcoming meetings and written comment periods.

Attachment 2

MOOSEHEAD REGION PLAN – ISSUES, CONCERNS, NEEDS, OPPORTUNITIES [5-14-15]

5-21-15 Advisory Committee meeting notes [in italics]

LITTLE MOOSE UNIT

1. Recreation:

Non-motorized trails:

- Need for more consistent hiking trail maintenance (removal of blowdowns, blazing)
 - BPL is in the second year of trail repair work being performed by MCC crews, focused on area around Big and Little Moose ponds. *[Bob Guethlen and others] Other trail stewardship issues: can old warden’s cabin be removed? In poor condition. Opportunity to rebuild trail at top of Big Moose to circumvent the development/infrastructure up there; issue with trail markings being hard to find during winter (too low for snow depth that occurs); [Doug Denico] Baxter SP has dealt with marking of winter trails well, use as example*
 - Potential for development of a volunteer trail steward group? *[Luke] believe potential is there for a volunteer trail group; [Bryan] has been discussed by the Plum Creek trail advisory group, AMC has professional staff in Greenville to lead effort, and had adopted a trail; [John Simko] may be education and training role for AMC.*
- Potential for hiking trail across west side of unit, connecting Eagle Rock trail to west end of Little Moose trail (could be partly on Plum Creek); also potential for segments connecting Big Moose Mtn. trail to Eagle Rock and to Little Moose trail in vicinity of Big Moose Pond to create a large backpacking loop. Some portions of these conceptual trails may also be suitable for single-track mtn. bike use.
 - Need to locate any new trails with objective to minimize impact on access to timber
 - *[Bob Hamer] Little Moose is a top priority of Plum Creek trails group; support the 3 new trails extending from and linking existing trails being considered, all rated as “1” by that committee; [Allen Phillips] potential for new campsite on Eagle Rock trail (off unit); [Rex Turner] may also look at new campsites in conjunction with new trails in the NW corner of the unit*
- Potential for new Little Moose Mtn. trail parking area and trailhead off Rt. 6/15, on old road. Would need to remove old asphalt, which is too deteriorated to maintain. Trailhead at motel could remain. New trailhead would link to trail via snowmobile trail route.
- Community interest in more opportunities close to Greenville (south part of unit) for family-oriented outdoor day-use recreation; easy trails with connections to Wiggins Brook area, RR bed road/trail, and possibly to Little Moose trail. Walking/biking trails could double as snowshoeing/x-country ski trails.
 - Have to contend with beaver issues in this area; RR Bed Road is sometimes flooded, limited options for dam removal
 - *[John Simko] Looking for more easy, achievable day hikes; Little Moose Unit is logical place to do this, consider the unit a “diamond in the rough”; need to connect to the town, have a proposal for a permanent hiking trail; primarily to serve local population but also of interest to visitors (unlike most of the Plum Creek trails being considered); there are no interpretive or wildlife-oriented trails in the area*
 - *[Jenny Ward {non AC–member}] There is no place close to town to enjoy trail running and other trail activities and not compete with motorized uses; want to get off RR bed*

road; would like to develop a 10k loop trail that about the Little Moose Ridge but does go over hiking trail; can use existing woods roads for some portion; would like width to accommodate side-by-side strollers; such a trail can host 5k races, popular fundraiser for non-profits; OK with harvesting in the area, key is to connect trails to town; consider a boardwalk on the bog area, maintained by a non-profit hiking group, like at Caribou Bog (Orono area); 1988 Plan proposed nature trails at the bog, the gravel pit pond area, and other appropriate locations.

- [Bob Guethlen] Concern to preserve the authentic wild lands experience on the Unit with any new recreational development, with vista, wildlife, big trees; backcountry is important on the unit, too.

Motorized trails:

- More off-trail snowmobile riding has been observed in the higher elevations (off trail on skid trails when snow conditions are good);
 - consider connecting the north and south side snowmobile trails over the Little Moose mountain ridgeline (at gap between Big Moose Pond and Notch Ponds, following old roads *and route of former club trail that could be re-established*); has been discussed with MNAP in relation to rare/exemplary resources in the gap area; [Marc Albert] would serve to segregate motorized and non-motorized users if Plan encourages more winter trail use.
 - [Marc Albert] Connection will assist with need for new snowmobile trail west of Greenville the next 5 years, since Dyer Road and Brochu Road will be plowed during harvesting on abutting land.
- Snowmobiles travel into Big Moose Pond from the west for commercial smelt fishing (IF&W program supporting bait fish market), but this is a non-motorized zone (LUPC Remote Pond buffer of ½ mile); ATVs also use this route now that it is kept open by snowmobilers
 - Need to discuss with IF&W need for continued smelt fishing on the pond; [Tim Obrey] would prefer to continue program, removal of smelt benefit trout, which they compete with, and it is also important economically.
 - If program is to continue, need to create a designated trail corridor, or stop the use [Marc Albert] Concern that allowing snowmobiles to use a trail corridor to the pond would lead to ATVs using the same route; have recently seen ATVs that used this route at the pond. [Bob Hamer] This access should be seasonal (winter only) to respect backcountry. [Bob Guethlen] Why can't smelt fishermen walk in? [Tim Obrey] Activity occurs from Dec to April 1; snowmobile access is needed because use big drop nets, have 8 qt. (not 2 qt.) limit
- Side-by-side ATVs are cutting their way around gates that are too narrow for them to pass; need to work with ORV program on a solution
 - Need to widen gates or use "P" gates to allow ATVs to pass but stop pickups
 - [Bob Hamer] Had an ATV summit a year ago; side-by-side design is the trend; gates need to be upgraded to accommodate

Other Recreation Opportunities/Needs:

- ATV trail loop could serve runners and bike riders with some improvements to roughest sections
 - about half mile of road is unimproved now, with large rocks; BPL has been gradually improving road to complete the public use road loop

- Need to establish (or reestablish?) hand carry boat access to Wiggins Brook; existing informal put-in is just off Dyer Rd and RR Bed Road *at the “pipe” where there is a small parking area and ramp down to the water; bog and stream below provide varied bird-watching opportunity.*
 - May be potential to recreate a put-in at the impoundment, possibly in conjunction with dam repair *[Marc Albert] BPL-owned dam has serious ice damage; paddlers are using bad put-in site at end of Dyer Road now.*
- Opportunities for mountain biking trails, possibly co-located in part on hiking trails? Any way to connect unit to town with bike trail?
 - Potentially could make snowmobile trail linking the north and south roads (suggested for consideration in this Plan) accessible to bikes *[Rex Turner] probably not compatible uses, in that mountain bikes need a very different type of design of trail*
 - *[Rex Turner] Have dropped consideration of co-locating bike trails on hiking trails, due to a number of concerns and challenges with the concept*
- Gravel Pit pond day use area needs maintenance work: remove brush around pond to allow mowing, reposition the fishing dock that is positioned too far above water, fix up trails and signage by water’s edge.
- Potential recreational uses of the former landfill and borrow pit – e.g., non-motorized trails, wildlife watching (Town of Greenville will continue to lease the lands while meeting regulatory obligations for reclamation of the site; have completed required capping and revegetation).
- *[Tim Obrey] Unauthorized campsites at east side of Big Indian Pond are a mess, one is on a beach used by a lot of people; need a fire ring, perhaps a privy; campsites were proposed here in 1988 Plan*

2. Access/Roads:

- Good potential for winter non-motorized use if visitors know what roads are being plowed; need to determine what winter access – particularly on the North Road to Big Moose TH -- is reasonable to provide if not plowed for timber harvesting.
 - Plowing the road conflicts with snowmobile use of the road
 - Winter use of Big Moose Mtn. trail low when road is plowed for logging, difficult to justify plowing based on that low use *[Bob Guethlen] If people know it is plowed they will come; previous winters, did not know of it would be open or not; try it for 5 years and evaluate whether to continue? [Bob Hamer] ideal would be design to accommodate both snowmobiles and road vehicles on North Road; design parking areas with day use options also, not just overnight.*
 - Road is open for timber harvesting several winters each decade
- Roads designated as Public Use must be constructed and maintained in a manner that permits lower-clearance cars than were formerly considered, to use them safely; limit height of crown of road, use smaller rock for surfacing.
- Potential for improvement of the management road linking Mountain Road and the end of North Road at Big Indian Pond; road has been improved to Public Use Road standard except for middle section, one/half mile. *[Pete Smith] BPL is gradually improving the road such that the entire loop will eventually be at public use road standard.*

3. Wildlife/Special Resources:

- MNAP has recent surveys of rare and exemplary resources on the unit (Big Moose Mountain, Little Moose Mountain, Wiggins Bog area), and has discussed with Bureau forester

4. Timber Management:

- Much of the operable forest is visible from multiple vantage points both on and off the unit; therefore, planning of access and timber harvests require careful consideration of visual resources.
 - To protect visual resources, much of the unit should have a Visual Class II allocation, and Visual Class I should be applied near roads and recreation sites and other locations with close-up views of harvests.
 - *[Marc Albert] On a 20-year cycle for commercial harvesting, have a firewood contractor active in the unit*
 - *[Allen Phillips] Appreciates how the Bureau has managed cutting on the Unit; clean, good-looking jobs;*
 - *[Bob Guethlen] Harvesting needs to be done sensitively and need to provide visual protection*
- LUPC PU-A zoning of the Big Moose Brook watershed due to former use as water supply for Greenville needlessly complicates timber management and adds considerable administrative expense. Surface water supply in watershed has been replaced by wells and pumping station near Wiggins Brook. Need to explore potential rezoning petition with LUPC.

5. Administrative Issues:

- Signage -- Need for more and improved signage and information for visitors
 - Staff agree that improved signage is needed at North Road entrance
 - A new Little Moose Unit brochure is also needed; *Hard copy maps with rules are important to have for distribution; pass out many at Visitor Center*
 - How can overall signage be improved and contribute to or complement the branding effort being pursued by the Moosehead Lake Region Economic Development Corporation?
 - *[Luke Muzzy] Key is collaboration on consistent signage; also need a regional brochure; Plum Creek, AMC and BPL should put out one product together*
 - *[Bryan Wentzell] Dept. of Economic and Community Development works as facilitator for this type of collaboration; should consider need for on-line maps and apps for communicating about recreation amenities on the units*
- Firewood cutting permits -- Access to firewood is increasingly important to community, both individual and commercial harvesters; Town of Greenville would like return of firewood cutting program along Brochu [Dyer] Road.
 - Although cutting is done along the Dyer Road, the program is available along the North Road.
- Gravel resource – Need an inventory to make best economic use of this plentiful resource. Old inventory is not adequate. *[Bob Guethlen] Do we have to reclaim vegetation at our gravel pits? [Marc Albert] BPL follows state law in regards to reclamation*
- Potential for sugarbush leases – Good potential exists; key concerns are compatibility of this use and potential conflicts with other land uses; need for Visual Consideration zones that would allow such an operation, while protecting views from public access roads.
 - Is tubing OK in Visual Consideration Class I zone?
 - *[Kathy Eickenberg] Sugarbush area becomes an exclusive use due to tubing; difficult for hunting or locating trails; need to consider public recreation impact.*
 - *[Erica Kaufman] Do we have a map of potential sugarbush areas? [Jim Vogel] General area is south of North Road and east of Mountain Road -- indicated on map*

- Railroad Bed Road – Community interest in potential for BPL to acquire the RR Bed Road corridor in fee, or an easement, to ensure future recreational access. The corridor across the Unit and down to Shirley is owned by Penobscot Forest LLC, managed by AFM.
 - This issue has come up previously and is complicated by other ownership claims and numerous ROWs held by private individuals to access camps. Acquisition in fee or an easement would require agreements with all current owners and ROW holders. BPL ORV Division has a broader concern about continued access to this corridor for ORV use extending beyond Shirley, all the way to Abbott/Guilford area.
 - *[Kathy Eickenberg] BPL has been pursuing ROW exchange related to northern segment of the RR Bed Road for some time, and will take action on this soon*

DAYS ACADEMY UNIT

Issues/Needs/Opportunities

1. *Recreation:*

- Need to determine where ATV routes are appropriate on the shared use roads within the Unit; there are currently no approved ATV routes leading to the Unit.
- Consider designating an official hiking trail on Shaw Mtn. (1997 Plan describes a rough informal trail); have identified a new location for an up and back trail beginning at the end of the management road to the southeast, near Farm Brook; would need to improve road, develop a parking area and signage.
- *[Bob Guethlen] Work is needed on the Little Kineo trail and the parking area*

2. *Timber Management*

- The southern portion of the Unit can be viewed from nearby Kineo Mountain, and Little Kineo's flat top offers 360 degree views; therefore, planning of timber harvests require careful consideration of visual resources.
 - To protect visual resources, areas seen from Kineo Mountain, Little Kineo, and Shaw Mountain should have a Visual Class II allocation.
 - Visual Class I should be applied near roads, shoreline campsites and camplot lease sites. Harvesting should also be conducted to minimize visual impact as seen from the lake.

3. *Access/Roads:*

- Need to determine what portion of existing loop road and spurs should be upgraded to Public Use Road standard

4. *Wildlife/Special Resources:*

- Boundary of protected area around Little Kineo needs to be adjusted to better match location of rare and exemplary resources (i.e., further upslope of west side, downslope on north side and perhaps east side)
 - BPL has discussed with MNAP, including recent MNAP surveys on which to base adjustments.
- Project to reclaim old fields and perform other wildlife enhancement measures was begun a few years ago at Deer Head Farm, but not completed
 - IF&W biologist assigned to BPL is overseeing program to mow field on a biennial basis.

5. *Administrative Issues:*

- Management road on southwest shoreline along North Bay was closed and gated due to resource issues; camp owners have repeatedly removed gate.
- *[Bob Guethlen] Signage on the unit (as well as others) is inadequate*

SUGAR ISLAND

Issues/Needs/Opportunities

1. *Recreation:*

- Potential for more campsites, in particular group campsites, in closer proximity to Lily Bay SP boat ramp? Potential for reservable campsites?
- Visitors to Lily Bay need better information about boat-in campsites; need a simple, easy to reproduce map or brochure showing campsite locations and providing boater safety messages.

2. *Cultural Resources:*

- Need to locate old logging camps and determine if there are historical artifacts remaining that require protection; artifacts will soon be more than 50 years old, changing status and requirements for protection
- One Native American grave site is known to Bureau field staff; need to investigate possibility of additional grave sites (reported to exist during scoping) or other prehistoric archeological sites in consultation with SHPO and tribal representatives, and determine required protection under state law and regulations.

3. *Wildlife/Special Resources:*

- MNAP has recent surveys of rare and exemplary resources on the island and has discussed with Bureau forester

4. *Timber Management:*

- Most of the island is visible from the lake or from nearby mountains; high visibility of summer harvest operation makes it particularly sensitive; need to ensure that harvests are ecologically and visually appropriate.
 - Visual Class I is applied on the shoreline to minimize visual impact as seen from the lake. Much of the remainder should be Visual Class II.

KINEO AND FARM ISLAND (undeveloped State Park land)

Issues/needs/opportunities

1. *Recreation:*

- Need to provide a designated landing site for motorboaters or paddlers at Kineo, whether at the existing dock used by the commercial shuttle from Rockwood or at a new site; BPL Boating Facilities Division has completed an assessment of potential sites
- Hiking trails need maintenance and better marking

- *[Bob Guethlen] highlighted importance of improved trail maintenance and need for safe boat landing near trailhead / commercial shuttle available to the public using both motorized and non-motorized boats*

2. Cultural Resources

- Scoping comments highlighted significant cultural education opportunities at Kineo; in particular, would like to see Native American history at Kineo, which was a regionally significant source of material for tools, told on-site to visitors. Also mentioned was the opportunity to demonstrate ethnobotany on the island.
- There are reportedly Native American burial sites on Kineo; unclear as to whether there are burial sites on BPL parcel; need more information on known and potential archeological sites (consult with SHPO and tribes) that may require protection.
- *[Maliseet attendees] Indigenous artifacts and burial sites are not mentioned except in reference to Kineo; may be present on other lands also. David Robertson at UM could look at possible archeological/burial sites. Red Paint burial sites are known at Kineo, one beneath current tennis courts on former resort property; artifacts were removed to Peabody Museum in MA.*

3. Timber Management

- Timber harvesting on State Park lands is limited by legislation; any timber harvesting would be primarily directed at improving wildlife habitat (e.g., deer yards)
- Availability of barge currently used in harvests at Sugar Island presents opportunity to conduct the more limited harvests on Farm Island and Kineo as allowed by law; in conjunction with harvests at Sugar Island, could provide for continuous harvests on the lake.

4. Administrative Issues

- Old building and a dump on Farm Island could be cleaned up using the large barges and heavy equipment used for Sugar Island timber harvests.

Attachment 3

Post-Meeting Comments

Vogel, Jim

From: wardsinthewoods <wardsinthewoods@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 6:41 AM
To: Vogel, Jim
Cc: Luke Muzzy; Turner, Rex; Tilberg, Karin; rmsamer@gmail.com; Albert, Mark
Subject: Running Trail BPL Little Moose Unit Proposal
Attachments: GoogleEarth_Placemark.kmz

Good morning Jim,

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for allowing me to further describe the proposed 10K walking/running trail for the southern portion of the Little Moose Unit at last week's BPL Management Plan meeting. I am in hopes that Rex shared with you the concept map that I have come up with, but if not please find one attached.

This trail footprint was initially determined by using google earth and located by using pre-existing trail like roads that were already there. I want to emphasize that the trail concept is quite flexible and can be very compatible with the existing (and any planned) woods management roads in that part of the Unit. It can also be very fluid, in that it's location can be moved as necessary to accommodate future planning for this area. The texture of the trail base does not have to be to a certain specification and a woods management road type surface is quite suitable, in fact, ideal.

Please work with us to accommodate this important trail proposal that would enable people in the community to get some fresh air and exercise, in a safe location and an easy drive from town. We have received so much input from community members that a trail of this nature is truly needed.

If there are obstacles from your prospective, please let us know so that we can explore how to make this 10k trail a reality.

Thanks so much for your time!

Jenny Ward (207) 695-2523

Bob and Diane Guethlen
PO Box 417
Rockwood, ME 04478

Jim Vogel
Senior Planner, Bureau of Parks and Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Jim,

I want to personally thank you for the opportunity to participate on the advisory committee for the new management plan for state lands in the Moosehead region. Diane and I know the staff at Parks and Lands take this responsibility seriously and it is evident that you have done a good job in listening and considering local citizens concerns and good ideas. The last two meetings were a good example of how much these areas mean to the community for personal use by local residents and to attract visitors to our region. As you know tourism is the driving factor in the economy of the Moosehead region.

There is a strong consensus for building a loop trail with Plum Creek funds in the Little Moose unit and building a near town close in trail as well.

On the many day hiking trips Diane and I have made to the Little and Big Moose area we are always struck by the wild, unspoiled feel of this special place. The wild feel is what brought us to the Moosehead area originally and why we love it here. Visitors we meet on these hikes are always in awe of the place and feel they are really "out there," yet so close to town.

This area truly is a gem and the community knows it, and wants it to remain the authentic experience that is so necessary for building a recreational tourism economy. The fact that the timber harvesting, to date, has been sensitive allows the area to give this authentic experience. As the new visioning in Greenville happens the tourism community will depend on this area, so close to town, for continued and repeat business.

As one of many retired couples that live in the region, we truly appreciate having such a beautiful wild place to come back to again and again. After all, this is why we live here.

The area has hundreds of thousands of acres of industrial forest but very few acres where the focus is for large trees, pristine viewsheds, beautiful remote ponds and streams and provides a place for quiet reflection and contemplation. Our hope is that you will see these features as the critical resource that our region needs.

There is a place for snowmobiles, ATVs, and mountain biking in the area, and there are many trails and logging roads already in place that support these activities. But it is a fact that you cannot do all things in the same place and still have a quality of experience that locals and visitors will want to come back to. We recommend that no new or expanded snowmobile, ATV, or biking trails be established because

these uses are not compatible with the authentic back wood experience so rare and so important to our area – visitors will know the difference.

I made several practical recommendations that were noted at the meeting. But none of them will be important if the value of the place is not protected.

In closing, sensitive forestry and opportunities for quiet hiking, fishing, birding, wildlife viewing, and beautiful views will pay off in dividends for local individuals and local businesses alike.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate on the advisory committee for this new management plan.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Bob and Diane Guethlen. The first signature is 'Bob Guethlen' and the second is 'Diane Guethlen'.

Bob and Diane Guethlen

Cc: Kathy Eikenberg

Vogel, Jim

From: Allen Phillips <aphillipst3r5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2015 4:20 PM
To: Vogel, Jim
Cc: Marty Phillips
Subject: Moosehead Region Plan issues

Hi Jim,

Some of my thoughts on the current subject.

Allowing public wood cutting as well as forestry management has the following issues: Continuing the practice of consideration of the view of the hillsides and roads from ponds and for hikers. i.e. no significant cleared areas and lack of piles of trash wood in the woods or along roads as some of the contractors for Plum Creek have done. (including leaving several twitches of logs in the woods.)

Further, I don't know what is happening with beech in the area, but there is a lot less of it and if it is coming back it is a very slow process. Beech nuts as you probably know provide a food source for certain birds as well as deer and bear. This also applies to a potential sugarbush area.

Primitive campsites:

Who manages these and how often are they checked and picked up?
Should there be fire pits, signage requesting proper usage of the site?

ATV and snowmobiles:

Hopefully the town of Greenville and/or Bureau of Public lands could come to some agreement with the property owners of the Dyer Road and Brochu Road for access trails for snowmobiles and ATV's. Truckers apparently are hauling across BPL roads. Perhaps not necessarily for following their road, they might be able to cut an adjacent trail along the road. Usually there is some opportunity for negotiation.

Some of us would like to leave the North Road / MountainRoad as is. Ungroomed. It is used by snowsleds and ATVs now. More use will effect the remoteness of the area. The issue here and for the whole unit is, has there been discussion of how the Unit should be managed for crowding? How many are too many? Will some areas be managed for the remote experience as indicated in the first set of plans for the region.

Management goals:

What are the management goals?

Jim, I will send a copy of this to my daughter Marty, who wrote to me with her thoughts and agreed to send the email to you. She is more familiar with data in this regard than I am.

Regards,

Vogel, Jim

From: Marcia Phillips <marcialeephillips@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2015 4:41 PM
To: Vogel, Jim
Cc: 'Allen Phillips'
Subject: RE: Moosehead Region Plan input

Hi Jim,

While I am neither a resident nor property owner in the region, I am a long time visitor. I spend money there. I spend time there alone and with family. It is a place I value and one I have visited, enjoyed and admired for the past 50 years. I also dabble a little in this type of research, so here is what I shared with Dad. It reflects my thoughts and, I believe, his as well. Any references that I used are below. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Maine's public lands are important resources that provide state residents and guests with unique opportunities to enjoy woods, waters and wildlife in an uncrowded and natural environment. When moving forward with updating existing management plans and trying to accommodate new uses and an ever increasing number of users, we encourage the Bureau to consider a spectrum of development options, and to support continuing traditional uses in a responsible manner that benefits all and still protects the fragile resources of our lands.

Consider a spectrum of development and access to provide different opportunities and experiences for all, from remote to developed, similar to the US Forest Service's Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, which guides their recreation development. We have a unique opportunity here to provide one end of the opportunity spectrum—that of the more remote and undeveloped area. Commercial development will provide access to woods and waters (logging roads, Moosehead Lake).

For some people, the process of getting to a place is as enjoyable as the destination: there is no need for drive-in access to all ponds simply because a few people desire it, or formal snowmobile trails for people who like to blaze their own trail along back woods roads. This is a great opportunity to provide opportunities for solitude and a less structured experience. Moosehead Lake is nearby, can accommodate a large number of boats and people without unduly influencing the boating or fishing experience of others on the lake. On Moosehead, there is room for boaters to spread out without seeming to contribute too much to perceptions of crowding on the water. Roads around the lake are developed and accessible to most people. Increasing access to smaller ponds, however, has a greater impact, as new users are more visible, boat motors are heard all day and issues of crowding become apparent.

Maine's hunters and anglers—both resident and nonresident—consistently refer to Maine as having the most attractive natural setting when compared to competing states, and they identify the natural beauty of the area and remoteness with few other people as site characteristics they prefer when choosing a place to hunt and fish. Recent studies show that in 2013, anglers spent \$208.8M in Maine, with a total economic contribution to Maine's economy of \$319.2M. The numbers for hunters are similar. Hunters spent \$231.2M in Maine in 2013, contributing a total of \$338.7M to Maine's economy. A significant portion of this money is spent within the Moosehead Lake region. These are important resource users who we cannot and should not drive away by eliminating preferred hunting and fishing sites.

Nonconsumptive wildlife uses in these areas abound. Bird watchers are arguably the most organized and studied group of wildlife watchers, although recently moose watching safaris have become popular around Maine. The US Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that in 2011, 838 thousand people watched wildlife in Maine and spent \$799M in Maine to do so. The USFWS also estimated as many as 689 thousand people observed birds in and around home and on trips throughout the state, with the majority of these—76 percent—taking trips.

The more access we create, the more we reduce opportunities for a back country or remote experience with few people.

The more access we create, the more conflict we introduce between various users and risk degradation of resources.

References:

- Southwick Associates. 2014. Hunting in Maine in 2013: A statewide and regional analysis of participation and economic contributions. Prepared for Maine Office of Tourism and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
- Southwick Associates. 2014. Fishing in Maine in 2013: A statewide and regional analysis of participation and economic contributions. Prepared for Maine Office of Tourism and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
- Southwick Associates. 2015. Recreational Hunter and Angler Market Report: Maine. Prepared for Maine Office of Tourism and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
- U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

Thanks for your time,
Marty Phillips
207-314-1936

Vogel, Jim

From: Walter Opuszynski <walter@northernforestcanoetrail.org>
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 1:15 PM
To: Vogel, Jim
Cc: Turner, Rex; karrie@northernforestcanoetrail.org
Subject: Feedback for Consideration in the Moosehead Management Plan
Attachments: NFCT Moosehead Management Plan Recommendations 2015.docx

Hello Jim,

Attached you will find four recommendation for consideration as the Moosehead Management Plan is being formed. I do not have solid on-the-ground knowledge of many of the recreational sites found on the lake. My feedback is based on user feedback, personal experience, and is also influenced by the discussions that we are having internally as we develop a long range management plan for the trail corridor. Please let me know if you have any questions at all or if there is some other way I can help.

Walter

Walter Opuszynski
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NFCT Moosehead Management Plan Recommendations

The recreation opportunities found on the management areas under review on Moosehead Lake are very much a public resource that has allowed many a paddler and camper to enjoy the beauty of Maine's largest lake. In reviewing the previous plans and with a limited understanding of the on-site conditions of many of the locations the Northern Forest Canoe Trail makes the following recommendations with the intention of helping to preserve the integrity of the locations, to help ensure efficient management, and provide the highest degree of public safety. We applaud the Bureau's commitment to this process and all of the hard work that goes into keeping the public recreational assets of the lake available and usable for all. We hope that the future plan will allow for the locations to be available for public use well into the future.

Recommendation 1: Campsite Use Data

We are not aware of any data that exists regarding the degree of use at the primitive sites found in the described Moosehead Management area. We have found usage data an invaluable tool to ensure adequate management. We would recommend either or a combination of the two strategies to better understand the degree of use at these primitive sites:

- **Installation of sign-in boxes.** Sign-in data can help determine the degree of use at a particular site, the highest periods of activity at particular sites, and can also be a resource in emergency response search and rescues.
- **User Impact Survey.** The Allagash Wilderness Waterway has performed two user impact studies; one in 2000 the other in 2015. The data has been useful in determining adequate management practices and to validate the adequacy of the quantity of campsite opportunities. A base-line survey performed for Moosehead Region campsites could allow for the development of plans to address impact as well as the creation of a baseline understanding of current conditions of user impact to compare to future surveys.

Recommendation 2: Human Waste Management

Waterside campsites are typically located in sensitive areas and in locations with higher water tables. We would recommend a review of the human waste management systems at each site to determine the adequacy of the location, the effectiveness of the system, and to determine if there may be other types of privies (composting/moldering) that may be more appropriate.

Recommendation 3: Spatial Data Attribute Information

In recent years more accurate spatial data has been gathered for the campsites. We recommend building attribute information associated with this data to include more detailed site information such as:

- Number of tent sites available
- Type of privy
- Picnic Table (Y/N)
- Sign-in Box (Y/N)
- Signage (Y/N)

(This information may already exist without our knowledge)

Recommendation 4: Naming Campsites and Displaying Names with Signage

For navigational and emergency response reasons we recommend that the sites be given names and receive signage that can be seen from the water. We also recommend that the latitude and longitude of the sites be recorded and displayed for public access and for use by emergency responders.